

Economic Impact Assessment
Amend Subsection 360(b)
Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR)
Re: Deer: X-Zone Hunts

The proposed regulations will set the 2014-2015 big game hunting regulations for deer in zone X. Currently, the season dates and tag quotas are established based on overwinter herd reports and biological assessments made by Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) biologists at the conclusion of the respective species hunting seasons. In early spring, surveys of deer herds are conducted to determine the proportion of fawns that have survived the winter. This information is used in conjunction with the prior year harvest and fall herd composition data to estimate overall herd size, sex and age ratios, and the predicted number of available bucks next season. Each year the Department reviews the population status of the subject species and recommends tag quotas based on the above survey data.

Economic Impact of Deer, Elk, Antelope, and Bighorn Sheep Hunting

Data from the Department's Wildlife and License and Revenue Branches were used in conjunction with USFWS¹ data to estimate the total economic impact of Deer, Elk, Antelope, and Bighorn Sheep hunters throughout the state. Each year about 175,000 hunters spend about \$1,161 each in hunting trip-related expenditures. These trip-related expenditures are dispersed to California businesses in the vicinity of and en route to the hunting areas. These direct expenditures generate indirect and induced effects resulting in \$263,702,757 in total economic output.² Deer, Elk, Antelope, and Bighorn Sheep hunting is associated with about \$51,947,191 in labor income or a total of 1,170 jobs in the state.

Economic Impact of Big Game Hunting Trip-Related Expenditures (resident & nonresident)			
	Output	Labor Income	Jobs
Direct	\$202,390,334	\$31,704,949	803
Indirect	\$21,568,669	\$7,035,943	121
Induced	\$39,743,754	\$13,206,299	247
Total	\$263,702,757	\$51,947,191	1,170

Economic Impact of Deer Hunting in Zone X

Section 360(b) sets dates and tag quotas for deer hunting in zone X in the north eastern portion of the state. The approximately 6,351 deer hunters in these zones alone are estimated to contribute about \$5,492,577 per year in hunting trip-related expenditures. These trip-related expenditures generate indirect and induced

¹ USFW, *2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation for California, Feb 2013*.

² California state-wide multipliers generated with IMPLAN were used to estimate the total economic impacts for all Big Game Hunting.

effects resulting in \$7,156,506 in total economic output. The combined economic effects of deer hunters in these zones support as many as 32 jobs in the state.

Deer Hunting §360(b) Trip-Related Expenditures (resident & nonresident)			
	Output	Labor Income	Jobs
Direct	\$5,492,577	\$860,426	22
Indirect	\$585,342	\$190,945	3
Induced	\$1,078,587	\$358,400	7
Total	\$7,156,506	\$1,409,771	32

Economic Impact of Proposed Changes to §360(b)

Existing regulations provide for the number of license tags available for zone X. The Commission is considering changes the number of tags for areas of zone X within the ranges presented in the table below.

Deer: §360(b) X-Zone Hunts Tag Allocations		
Zone	Current	Proposed
X-1	935	1,000-6,000
X-2	180	50-500
X-3a	295	100-1,200
X-3b	835	200-3,000
X-4	395	100-1,200
X-5a	75	25-200
X-5b	55	50-500
X-6a	320	100-1,200
X-6b	310	100-1,200
X-7a	220	50-500
X-7b	130	25-200
X-8	220	100-750
X-9a	650	100-1,200
X-9b	325	100-600
X-9c	325	100-600
X-10	400	100-600
X-12	680	100-1,200
Total:	6,350	2,400-20,650

The lowest number of tags that could be adopted under the proposed regulations is 2,400 and the highest amount being considered is 20,650. From the 2013 allocation of 6,350 tags the potential increase or decrease could fall within a range of about minus 62 percent to plus 225 percent of last season's total number of tags for the regulated zone. The economic impact of the final tag allocation structure was evaluated at the lowest possible number; the median number; and the highest possible number of tags to be adopted by the Commission. The widest range of outcomes was evaluated; however from 2009 through to 2013 the number of tags allocated has varied an average of about five percent as shown in the table below.

360(b) Deer Tag Allocation Ranges 2009 through 2013						
Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Mean
Tags	7,860	6,795	7,035	6,970	6,350	7,002
% Change	12.3%	-3.0%	0.5%	-0.5%	-9.3%	5.1%

A. The Creation or Elimination of Jobs

Depending on the final number of deer tags that the Commission adopts for this zone, the statewide impact to the creation or elimination of jobs is estimated to range from a low of 20 jobs to a median of 46 or to a high of 71 jobs.

B. The Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses

The Commission does not anticipate any impacts on the creation of new business or the elimination of existing businesses because the proposed regulations are not expected to reduce or increase the number of hunter days to a significant extent.

C. The Expansion of Businesses in California

The Commission does not anticipate any impacts on the expansion of businesses in California that will be subject to the proposed amendments will not reduce or increase the number of hunter days to a significant extent.

D. Benefits of the Regulation:

Concurrence with Federal Law:

There are no comparable federal laws.

Concurrence with other Statutory Requirements:

Not applicable.

Health and Welfare of California Residents

Hunting provides outdoor recreational opportunities for not only the hunters, but for family and friends who are non-hunting members of the group, and are able to participate in hiking, fishing and other outdoor activities.

Benefits of the Regulation to Worker Safety

The Commission does not anticipate any impacts to worker safety because the proposed amendments will not affect working conditions.

Benefits to the Environment: Sustainable Management of Big Game Resources

It is the policy of this state to encourage the conservation, maintenance, and utilization of the living resources of the state's wildlife under the jurisdiction and influence of the state for the benefit of all the citizens of the state and to promote the development of local California hunting in harmony with federal law respecting the conservation of the living resources of the state. The objectives of this policy include, but are not limited to, the maintenance of sufficient populations of all species to ensure their continued existence and the maintenance of a sufficient resource to support a reasonable sport use, taking into consideration the necessity of regulating individual tag quotas to the quantity that is sufficient to provide satisfying hunting opportunities. Adoption of scientifically-based seasons, zones, and tag quotas provides for the maintenance of sufficient populations of big-game species to ensure their continued existence.

Other Benefits of the Regulation:

Promotion of Businesses That Rely on Statewide Hunting.

Adoption of scientifically-based seasons, zones and tag quotas provides for the maintenance of sufficient populations of big game to ensure their continued existence and future sport hunting opportunities. Under a normal season state big game hunters contribute about \$202,390,334 in direct revenues to the State's business sector. This is based on California Department of Fish and Wildlife data and the US Fish and Wildlife Service's 2011 national survey data on fishing, hunting, and wildlife associated recreation for California. Adding the indirect and induced effects of this initial revenue contribution and the total benefit to California's economy is estimated to be \$263,702,757 per year. This is equivalent to about \$51,947,191 in total wage earnings to Californians, or as many as 1,170 jobs in the state.